

Legislative Updates of interest for Higher Education: Week of Jan 12-15, 2016

(Highlighted & bolded text is linked to source. Bill numbers go to the most recent version on the SC General Assembly website, www.scstatehouse.gov. This report is not intended to be all inclusive. For additional information on the 2016 session, see SC General Assembly website. For information reports on CHE's website, [Click Here](#))

The General Assembly opened the 2016 Session, the second year of the two-year continuing 121st Session of the General Assembly, on January 12, 2016.

In the House

- Prefiled bills that were filed in December were introduced and referred to Committee. For a report on bills of interest included in the prefiled legislation, [Click Here](#). For a report on legislation carried over from the 2015 Session and other bills introduced of interest in 2016, [Click Here](#).
- Other legislation of interest regarding higher education introduced in the House during the week included: [H.4621](#) relating to privatization of SC public four-year colleges and universities and [H.4639](#) relating to authority for CHE and higher education institutions to participate in the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement related to postsecondary distance education.
- [Rep. Russell Fry](#), who was recently elected to fill the vacated seat for House District 106, was welcomed to the House of Representatives.
- House Ways and Means Higher Education and Technical College Budget Subcommittee met during the week and heard from CHE, Coastal Carolina University, Lander University, and Winthrop. The subcommittee began its hearings prior to the start of the 2016 Session and had previously heard from the SC Education Lottery Commission and SC Tuition Grants Commission. The subcommittee is chaired by [Rep. Jim Merrill](#) who is joined on the subcommittee by Reps. [Gilda Cobb-Hunter](#) and [Phillip Lowe](#). For a copy of CHE's presentation, [Click Here](#). For a copy of the anticipated schedule for consideration of the FY 2016-17 budget in the House, [Click Here](#).

In the Senate

- On Tuesday, the Senate remembered Senator Billy O'Dell who passed away on January 6. [Senator Margie Bright Williams](#), who was elected to the seat formerly held by the late Senator Clementa Pickney, was welcomed to the Senate.
- See above links for information on prefiled bills that were introduced in the Senate on Wednesday and for other legislation of interest for the 2015-2016 Session.

Other

- Governor Haley released her [FY 2016-17 Executive Budget](#) recommendations on January 15. For a CHE staff review of recommendations included related to higher education, [Click Here](#).